CLAIMS

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined ("____") being added and the language that contains strikethrough ("——") being deleted:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method processed by a computing device at a sender location, comprising the steps of:

receiving, by the computing device at the sender location, an instant messaging (IM) address of a contact of a sender;

receiving, by the computing device at the sender location, an email address of the contact of the sender;

receiving, by the computing device at the sender location, a ~~sender-defined~~ reference identifier ~~(ID) from the sender, the sender-defined~~ (ID), the reference identifier (ID) being adapted to identify the contact of the sender;

correlating, by the computing device at the sender location, the IM address to the ~~sender-defined~~ reference identifier; ~~and~~

correlating, by the computing device at the sender location, the email address to the ~~sender-defined~~ reference identifier ~~(ID)~~. (ID); and

providing, by the computing device at the sender location, an email window configured to utilize the reference identifier (ID) for launching an IM session with the contact from the email window.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving, by the computing device at the sender location, a telephone number of the contact;

correlating, by the computing device at the sender location, the telephone number of the contact to the ~~sender-defined~~ reference identifier (ID);

receiving, by the computing device at the sender location, an address of the contact;

correlating, by the computing device at the sender location, the address of the contact to the ~~sender-defined~~ reference identifier (ID);

receiving, by the computing device at the sender location, personal information of the contact; and

correlating, by the computing device at the sender location, the personal information of contact to the ~~sender-defined~~ reference identifier (ID).

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving, by the computing device at the sender location, a telephone number of the contact; and

correlating, by the computing device at the sender location, the telephone number of the contact to the ~~sender-defined~~ reference identifier (ID).

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving, by the computing device at the sender location, an address of the contact; and

correlating, by the computing device at the sender location, the address of the contact to the ~~sender-defined~~ reference identifier (ID).

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving, by the computing device at the sender location, personal information of the contact; and

correlating, by the computing device at the sender location, the personal information of contact to the ~~sender-defined~~ reference identifier (ID).

6.   (Currently Amended) A method processed by a computing device at a sender location, comprising the steps of:

receiving, by the computing device at the sender location, sender input, the sender input comprising multiple instant messaging (IM) addresses of an individual contact of the sender, the multiple IM addresses comprising IM addresses from different IM accounts, each of the different IM accounts being adapted to transmit and receive IM messages using a different IM protocol;

receiving, by the computing device at the sender location, a ~~sender-defined~~ reference identifier ~~(ID) from the sender, the sender-defined~~ (ID), the reference identifier (ID) being adapted to identify the individual contact; ~~and~~

correlating, by the computing device at the sender location, each of the multiple IM addresses to the ~~sender-defined~~ reference identifier (ID); and

providing, by the computing device at the sender location, an email window configured to utilize the reference identifier (ID) for launching an IM session with the individual contact from the email window.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

receiving, by the computing device at the sender location, an email address of the individual contact; and

correlating, by the computing device at the sender location, the email address of the individual contact to the ~~sender defined~~ reference identifier (ID).

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

receiving, by the computing device at the sender location, a telephone number of the individual contact; and

correlating, by the computing device at the sender location, the telephone number of the individual contact to the ~~sender defined~~ reference identifier (ID).

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

receiving, by the computing device at the sender location, an address of the individual contact; and

correlating, by the computing device at the sender location, the address of the individual contact to the ~~sender defined~~ reference identifier (ID).

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

receiving, by the computing device at the sender location, personal information of the individual contact; and

correlating, by the computing device at the sender location, the personal information of individual contact to the ~~sender defined~~ reference identifier (ID).

11.   (Currently Amended) A system processed by a computing device at a sender location comprising:

first receive logic, processed by the computing device at the sender location, the first receive logic configured to receive first sender input, the first sender input comprising multiple instant messaging (IM) addresses of an individual contact of the sender, the multiple IM addresses comprising IM addresses from different IM accounts, each of the different IM accounts being adapted to transmit and receive IM messages using a different IM protocol;

second receive logic, processed by the computing device at the sender location, the second receive logic configured to receive second sender input, the second ~~user~~ sender input comprising a ~~sender-defined~~ reference identifier (ID), the ~~sender-defined~~ reference identifier (ID) being adapted to identify the individual contact; ~~and~~

correlate logic, processed by the computing device at the sender location, the correlate logic configured to correlate each of the multiple IM addresses to the ~~sender-defined~~ reference identifier (ID), the ~~sender-defined~~ reference identifier (ID) being adapted to identify the individual ~~contact.~~ contact; and

email window logic, processed by the computing device at the sender location, the email window logic configured to provide an email window configured to utilize the reference identifier (ID) for launching an IM session with the individual contact from the email window.

12.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

receive logic, processed by the computing device at the sender location, and configured to receive an email address of the individual contact; and

correlate logic, processed by the computing device at the sender location, the correlate logic configured to correlate the email address of the individual contact to the ~~sender-defined~~ reference identifier (ID).

13.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

means for receiving, by the computing device at the sender location, an email address of the individual contact; and

means for correlating, by the computing device at the sender location the email address of the individual contact to the ~~sender-defined~~ reference identifier (ID).

14.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

receive logic, processed by the computing device at the sender location, and configured to receive a telephone number of the individual contact; and

correlate logic, processed by the computing device at the sender location, the correlate logic configured to correlate the telephone number of the individual contact to the ~~sender-defined~~ reference identifier (ID).

15.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

means for receiving, by the computing device at the sender location, a telephone number of the individual contact; and

means for correlating, by the computing device at the sender location, the telephone number of the individual contact to the ~~sender-defined~~ reference identifier (ID).

16.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

receive logic, processed by the computing device at the sender location, and configured to receive an address of the individual contact; and

correlate logic, processed by the computing device at the sender location, the correlate logic configured to correlate the address of the individual contact to the ~~sender defined~~ reference identifier (ID).

17.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

means for receiving, by the computing device at the sender location, an address of the individual contact; and

means for correlating, by the computing device at the sender location, the address of the individual contact to the ~~sender defined~~ reference identifier (ID).

18.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

receive logic, processed by the computing device at the sender location, and configured to receive personal information of the individual contact; and

correlate logic, processed by the computing device at the sender location, the correlate logic configured to correlate the personal information of individual contact to the ~~sender defined~~ reference identifier (ID).

19.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

means for receiving, by the computing device at the sender location, personal information

of the individual contact; and

means for correlating, by the computing device at the sender location, the personal information of

individual contact to the ~~sender-defined~~ reference identifier (ID).